

Amendments to the Claims:

1. **(Currently amended)** A fluidized-bed gasification furnace utilizing a fluidized-bed reactor, said fluidized-bed gasification furnace comprising:

a fluidized bed portion for a fluidized medium, said fluidized bed portion having a fluidized bed floor portion at a bottom part thereof;

a discharge port provided in the vicinity of said fluidized bed floor portion for discharging the fluidized medium;

a fluidized medium discharge chute connected to said discharge port and extending downwardly, from said discharge port being connected to said fluidized medium discharge chute to below said discharge port; and

a gas blow device provided below said fluidized medium discharge chute for blowing a gas into an interior of said fluidized medium discharge chute.

2. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 1, wherein a device for mechanically withdrawing the fluidized medium is provided in the vicinity of the lowermost part of said fluidized medium discharge chute.

3. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 1, wherein said gas blow device is provided at the lowermost part of said fluidized medium discharge chute.

4. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 1, wherein said gas blow device uses steam, carbon dioxide, or oxygen-free gas as a gas to be blown.

5. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 2, wherein said device for withdrawing the fluidized medium comprises a screw conveyor.

6. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 1, wherein said fluidized-bed reactor is divided into units for performing respective functions so that said fluidized-bed reactor can be modified to accommodate fuels having different properties by changing an arrangement of said units.

7. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 2, wherein said gas blow device is provided at the lowermost part of said fluidized medium discharge chute.

8. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 2, wherein said gas blow device uses steam, carbon dioxide, or oxygen-free gas as a gas to be blown.

9. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 3, wherein said gas blow device uses steam, carbon dioxide, or oxygen-free gas as a gas to be blown.

10. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 3, wherein said device for withdrawing the fluidized medium comprises a screw conveyor.

11. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 4, wherein said device for withdrawing the fluidized medium comprises a screw conveyor.

12. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 2, wherein said fluidized-bed reactor is divided into units for performing respective functions so that said fluidized-bed reactor can be modified to accommodate fuels having different properties by changing an arrangement of said units.

13. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 3, wherein said fluidized-bed reactor is divided into units for performing respective functions so that said fluidized-bed reactor can be modified to accommodate fuels having different properties by changing an arrangement of said units.

14. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 4, wherein said fluidized-bed reactor is divided into units for performing respective functions so that said fluidized-bed reactor can be modified to accommodate fuels having different properties by changing an arrangement of said units.

15. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 3, wherein said fluidized-bed reactor is divided into units for performing respective functions so that said fluidized-bed reactor can be modified to accommodate fuels having different properties by changing an arrangement of said units.

16. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 1, wherein an outer wall of said fluidized-bed gasification furnace is in a form of a rectangle.

Claim 17 **(Canceled)**